

### REMARKS

Claim 20 is now pending in this application. Applicants have canceled claims 22 to 25 without prejudice. These amendments add no new matter to the application.

### Allowable Claims

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's finding that claim 20 is allowable.

### 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 23 to 25 were rejected as allegedly obvious over Beames et al. (Virology 194:597-607) in view of Xian-Jun et al. (Hepatology, Vol. 1, No. 5, pp. 781-787, 1989). Applicants have canceled claims 23 to 25 without prejudice, thereby obviating this rejection. Accordingly, applicants request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 22 was rejected as allegedly obvious over Souw et al. (WO 94/12617) in view of Beames et al. (Virology 194:597-607) and Xian-Jun et al. (Hepatology, Vol. 1, No. 5, pp. 781-787, 1989). Applicants have canceled claim 22 without prejudice, thereby obviating this rejection. Accordingly, applicants request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

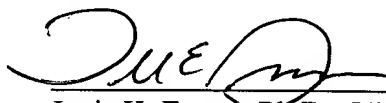
### CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance, which action is requested. Enclosed is a check for \$225 for the Petition for Extension of Time fee for a two month extension. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 00786-282003.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

4/8/05

 REG. NO. 54,112  
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Reg. No. 34,819